

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A copper-based alloy excellent in dezincing resistance ~~[[comprising]]~~ consisting essentially of, in percentage by weight:
Cu : 57 – 69%,
Sn : 0.3 – 3%
Si : 0.02 – 1.5%,
Bi : 0.5 – 3%, and
Pb : not more than 0.2% (including 0%),
P : 0.02 – 0.2%, and
the balance: Zn and unavoidable impurities,
further containing, in percentage by weight,
~~at least one of P : 0.02 – 0.2%, Sb : 0.02 – 0.2% and As : 0.02 – 0.2% at a total content of 0.02 – 0.2%,~~
where the ratio of Si/Sn expressed in weight percentage is in the range of 0.05 – 1 and apparent zinc content as defined by Formula (1) below is in the range of more than 39 – 50 wt.%, ~~and~~
~~the balance of unavoidable impurities:~~
Apparent Zn content = $[(\text{Zn}\% + 2.0 \times \text{Sn}\% + 10.0 \times \text{Si}\%) / (\text{Cu}\% + \text{Zn}\% + 2.0 \times \text{Sn}\% + 10.0 \times \text{Si}\%)] \times 100$... (1).

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A copper-based alloy excellent in dezincing resistance ~~[[comprising]]~~ consisting essentially of, in percentage by weight
Cu : 57 – 69%,
Sn : 0.3 – 3%

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Si : 0.02 – 1.5%,

Bi : 0.5 – 3%,

Pb : not more than 0.2% (including 0%),

P : 0.02 – 0.2%,

~~at least one of P : 0.02 – 0.2%, Sb : 0.02 – 0.2% and As : 0.02 – 0.2% at a total content of 0.02 – 0.2%, and~~

at least one of Fe : 0.01 – 0.5%, Ni : 0.01 – 0.5%, Mn : 0.01 – 0.5%, Al : 0.01 – 0.5%,

Cr : 0.01 – 0.5%, Be : 0.01 – 0.5%, Zr : 0.01 – 0.5%, Ce : 0.01 – 0.5%, Ag : 0.01 –

0.5%, Ti : 0.01 – 0.5%, Mg : 0.01 – 0.5%, Co : 0.01 – 0.5%, Te : 0.01 – 0.2%, Au :

0.01 – 0.5%, Y : 0.01 – 0.5%, La : 0.01 – 0.5%, Cd : 0.01 – 0.2%, Ca : 0.01 – 0.5% and

B : 0.01 – 0.5% at a total content of 0.01 – 3%, and

the balance: Zn and unavoidable impurities,

where the ratio of Si/Sn expressed in weight percentage is in the range of 0.05 – 1 and

apparent zinc content as defined by Formula (1) below is in the range of more than 39 – 50 wt.%, ~~and~~

~~the balance of unavoidable impurities:~~

Apparent Zn content = $[(\text{Zn}\% + 2.0 \times \text{Sn}\% + 10.0 \times \text{Si}\%) / (\text{Cu}\% + \text{Zn}\% + 2.0 \times \text{Sn}\% + 10.0 \times \text{Si}\%)] \times 100$... (1).

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A copper-based alloy excellent in dezincing resistance according to claim 2, wherein one or both of Si-system leadless brass scrap and Bi-system leadless brass scrap are used as source starting material for Si and Bi, respectively.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) A copper-based alloy excellent in dezincing resistance according to claim 4, wherein one or both of Si-system leadless brass scrap and Bi-

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system leadless brass scrap are used as source starting material for Si and Bi, respectively.